Feb. 20–22, 2003

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **February 20** and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **February 21 and 22**. This issue of Executive Notes is intended to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at these meetings.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities for 2002-03
Provincial Executive reviewed the Priorities Document which outlines action plans, who is responsible, target dates for implementation and action updates for the Association. Various Administrative Staff gave updates on sections of the Priorities Document and answered questions from Provincial Executive. The four priorities are: quality of teachers' work life; membership involvement; communications/public relations; teacher accountability/assessment/professionalism/certification.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

President's Report
Since the January meeting of Provincial Executive the President has continued his visitation program to schools within the province. To date, he has visited almost 220 schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. Many issues have been raised among the teachers in the schools during these visits including workload, new school construction, class size, lack of resources, etc. The President has also attended Executive meetings with the Canadian Teachers' Federation in his role as Vice-President of CTF, attended the launch of the Janeway Miracle Network Telethon, CAPTO Executive meetings in St. John's, attended the Substitute Teachers Special Interest Council meeting, and has done interviews with The Herald re Education Week, and NTV re Janeway Day in the Schools.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Workload Committee
The NLTA continues to pursue the carrying out of the workload study under Schedule M of the current Collective Agreement. As reported in a previous issue of Executive Notes, all parties have agreed on a researcher who will conduct a literature review, develop a survey instrument,

administer a questionnaire, collect and analyse information, and write a report on the subject of teacher workload. Teachers can expect to be approached to participate in this study in the near future.

For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Resolutions to 2003 BGM
Provincial Executive reviewed and approved the Report on Resolutions from Convention 2001 as well as proposed NLTA Act and By-Law changes to be considered at BGM 2003. The resolutions and proposed changes will be forwarded to all delegates with the Convention kits and will be included in the Convention issue of The Bulletin.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees
TABLE OFFICERS

- The Association will present to the Department of Education and school districts the prepared Brief titled "Putting the Teacher Back into Teaching".
- The NLTA will make a donation to the Badger Relief Fund.

  For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN TEACHING COMMITTEE

- When CONTACT is hosted in Newfoundland spaces will be reserved for three members of the future host committee to be delegates immediately preceding the host year. Also, the same type of ranking used to determine the initial CONTACT delegate list will be used to create the waiting list.
- The NLTA will petition the government to accommodate students who are Newfoundland and Labrador residents but studying outside the province for one year to allow them to write the scholarship exam.

  For further information contact Elizabeth Murphy, Chair, Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, or Beverley Park, Rene Wicks, Professional Development Division.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

- Section 5 of the NLTA Policy on Legal Aid was amended to ensure that NLTA policy is consistent with recent changes in the Teacher Certification system of reviews and appeals.
- The policy on the Allan Bishop award was amended so that the

deadline date for receipt of nominations at the NLTA office will be January 15 of each year.

- The policy on Pre-retirement Seminars was amended to read "A spouse is welcome to accompany the participating teacher to a pre-retirement seminar, but no expenses will be covered". The word spouse will also be deleted from section 4.b).
- Seven pre-retirement seminars will be held during the Fall of 2003 as per Association policy. The locations are as follows: Gander, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Grand Falls-Windsor, and three in St. John's. The dates and sites will be determined by the Benefits and Economic Services Division subject to hotel and presenter availability.

For further information contact Paul Matthews, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- The proposed Investment Policy for the Association was accepted as presented.
- The Association's Auditors' Report for the year ending August 31, 2002 was accepted for presentation to the 2003 BGM.

For further information contact Wayne Lee, Chair, Finance and Property Committee, or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

NLTA Awards

The following awards for 2002-03 will be presented at the 2003 Biennial Convention:

- Special Recognition Award -- Rex Hillier, St. John's Centre Branch
- Bancroft Award -- Marilyn Bennett, St. John's Centre Branch; Peggy Dunphy, Conception Bay Centre Branch; Dolly Oldford, Conception Bay South Branch
- Barnes Award -- Victor May (Posthumously), Deer Lake Branch

Honorary Membership will be awarded to Dr. Leslie Harris at the 2003 BGM.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Joint Council

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PREPARATIONS

Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive had an opportunity at this Joint Council meeting to take part in individual and group activity re preparations for the next round of negotiations. They were asked to review the process and outcomes of the last round of bargaining, to report issues that they believed teachers would want addressed during the next round of negotiations, and to prioritize the main issues. This information

will be forwarded to the Collective Bargaining Committee.

For further information contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Collective Bargaining Committee, or Perry Downey Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Workplace Health and Safety Compensation Commission
A presentation was made to Joint Council on the Workers' Compensation system by Perry Downey, Administrative Officer with the Benefits and Economic Services Division. The presentation included a history of Workers' Compensation in this province, benefit levels, maximum earnings and how teachers are affected by the ceiling on maximum earnings, how teachers are affected by the WHSCC benefit calculation, and other types of benefits available through WHSCC.

For further information contact Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Group Insurance LTD and Renewal
A presentation was made to Joint Council on Long-Term Disability Insurance by Don Ash, Administrative Officer with the Benefits and Economic Services Division. This presentation provided an overview of the insurance, definition of disability, how to make application, benefits and costs. Time was provided during the presentation for questions and comments.

For further information contact Don Ash, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Accountability in Education
A workshop session entitled "Accountability in Education" was presented by Noreen O'Haire, Director of Professional Development with the Canadian Teachers' Federation. The session included examining the term "accountability" and initiating the development of an alternate model. The session also included examining the existing framework, setting and meeting goals, having defined roles and responsibilities, identifying characteristics that describe accountability, and credible measurement techniques and methods.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, Edward Hancock, Executive Director, or Beverley Park and René Wicks, Administrative Officers in Professional Development.

Other Business
A Communique will be sent to teachers explaining the Association's objections to the ranking of high schools carried out by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) in its "Report Card on Atlantic Canadian Schools".

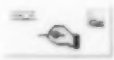
At the earliest convenience the President and/or Executive Director will

approach the Minister of Education to discuss the AIMS "Report Card" and ask that a joint statement be made about the concerns the NLTA and Department of Education have with the study.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and/or Joint Council for follow-up or future discussion: AIMS High School Ranking; BGM Election Forum; the 2.6% salary increase for 2002-03 on which payments to teachers are scheduled to begin as of April 1; Labrador Benefits Agreement Negotiations; Discretionary Leaves; and Educational Psychologists' Concerns.



For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **March 14 and 15, 2003** in St. John's. For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.